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The power of the Poppy
Find how you can help on page 3

Rail Trail gets gold
Explore this iconic walk on page 11

Celebrate the small moments
Why telling your story matters on page 6

Enjoying a foggy moring row on Maple Lake. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

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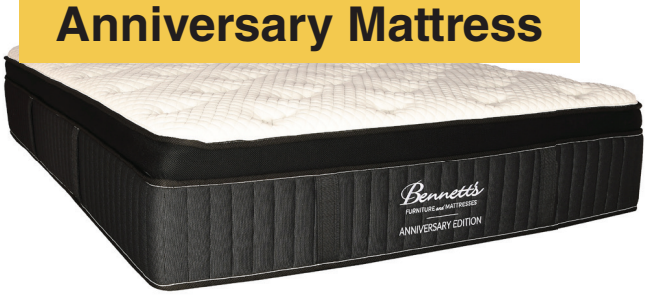

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Vandalism represents 'gap' in understanding

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

An act of vandalism at Head Lake Park in Haliburton has tripped alarms for Minden Pride.

The community organization was approached early last week, when some passerby in the park noticed homophobic slurs etched into the woodwork at the bandstand, overlooking Head Lake. The municipality, as well as the local police forces, were made aware of the vandalism, and while the slurs have since been sanded down, the mark they made on the 2SLGBTQIA+ community have cut deeper.

"This is not something we take lightly," said Chris Hewson, the co-chair of Minden Pride. "When you deface something in public like that, you're not directing it at one person. You're directing it to a whole community."

Minden Pride was formed in 2016, in light of the tragic shootings that occurred at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, which coincided with homophobic graffiti being plastered across a Haliburton storefront.

Since their conception, the volunteer not-for-profit committee has grown exponentially; from their early days of a flag raising and cake to a week-long festival that includes events and experiences for everyone. "I am so proud to be a part of Pride," said Hewson. "There's a spirit of unity, and we can really make an impact on that education, and that need for discourse."

Hewson shared that the act of vandalism represents a gap between education and understanding. "Sometimes that gap can feel like a little crack, and sometimes it can be a gulf," he said. "It's disheartening."

In terms of moving forward, Hewson believes that by filling in that educational gap, more people can begin to understand and accept Pride in the community. "We need to be a part of more conversations," he said, "to ensure we have a seat at the table."

He noted that many see Pride as "a little blip" in the year, and the organization aims to continue the conversation around inclusivity and understanding year-round. "We are diverse, open, and welcoming," said Hewson, "and we need to show up. That's so important."

All are welcome to attend any of Minden Pride's year-round events.

For more information, visit mindenpride.ca.

Mushroom magic

Eager foragers joined Stephan Lukacic for his Intro to Wild Edible Mushrooms program last weekend in Haliburton. The course offers tips and tricks for foragers of all skill levels, and runs right through until the snow flies. For more information, visit yoursoutdoors.ca. /TIM YANO Staff photographer

CountyLife

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

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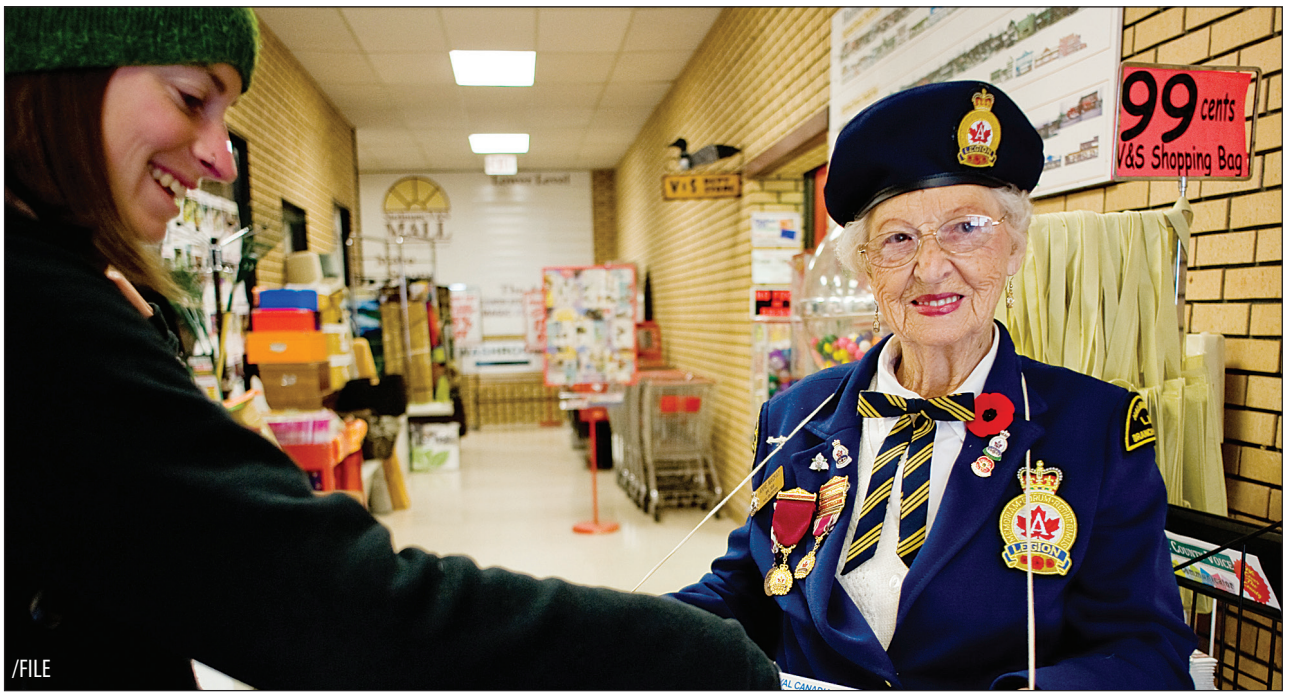
The 'powerful symbol' of the Poppy

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor



/FILE

A symbol of respect. A symbol of honour. A symbol for peace.

It's that time of year where felted Poppies don the lapels of passerby, and remembering comes to the forefront once again.

"The Poppy is a symbol of the service men and women who never came home," said Christina Briggs, the chair of the Poppy Campaign for Branch 129 at the Haliburton Legion. "They made the ultimate sacrifice."

The campaign lasts from Oct. 25 until Remembrance Day on Nov. 11, and includes boxes of Poppies dropped off at local businesses, as well as a series of individuals canvassing around the community. Briggs noted that many assume you need to be a member of the Legion to canvas, but in reality that is not the case. "We will take anyone who wants to help," she said.

And if standing outside to hand out Poppies does not seem doable, Briggs said there are many other volunteer opportunities with the campaign. "A lot goes on behind the scenes that people don't realize," she said. "It's more than just standing outside. There is stuff to do before, during, and after the campaign. There is a lot of flexibility for when you can help."

At the Legion, Briggs has a full chart laid out in front of her. On it, she has individual businesses and time slots mapped out; each with a square and a date planned for canvassing. Briggs must figure out who can volunteer and where, as well as plan for refilling boxes, and managing Poppy supplies over the duration of the campaign.

When asked about the difference between canvassing versus placed boxes in businesses with the Poppies, Briggs noted that having someone there in person often gets the messaging across with that intended act of Remembrance. "The presence of somebody standing there can really make an impact," she said.

One hundred per cent of the proceeds from the Poppy Campaign goes into the Poppy Trust Fund, which is designed to help veterans and their families with basic necessities and support. The Poppy is a registered trademark of the Royal Canadian Legion, which is done to safeguard the image as a symbol of Remembrance. It cannot be used without authorization, and any unauthorized uses of the Poppy outside of Legion use is illegal.

"To me, personally, the Poppy is a matter of respect," said Briggs. "My grandfather was enlisted. A cousin of mine served in Iraq. These are the people stepping up."

Those interested in volunteering for this year's Poppy Campaign can call the Haliburton Legion at 705-457-2571. Briggs shared that there are many roles available for those willing to help, and being a part of such a campaign is an opportunity to increase support and awareness around the Poppy. "The Poppy is a very powerful symbol," she said, "lest we forget."

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Sharing women's history

KATE BUTLER
Special to *County Life*

You might recall that in last week's paper, I mentioned that October marks Women's History Month in Canada. Have you discovered any stories of women from our community's history or your own family's history that have inspired you? If you're looking to find out more about women's history in the Haliburton Highlands, I would, of course, suggest visiting our community's museums, but the preservation of our community's stories has also been made possible by the work of local authors, many of them women. One of the most prominent who springs to mind is Nila Reynolds. Her research, completed in the 1950s and 1960s was extensive and spanned eight years, including 170 interviews with local residents and former residents. Being completed in the era in which it was meant that Nila's research had a much more immediate link with the stories of early settlers of the Haliburton Highlands. Today, many of those stories are still certainly passed down through families, but at a further remove, while others might have been lost completely, if Reynolds hadn't captured them when she did.

Something else I find fascinating is the fact that her research, which eventually became a book entitled *In Quest of Yesterday*, was also shared in the pages of the *Echo* over the course of 21 months in the early 1960s. I'm certain that at the time it generated a sense of community pride, but also a huge excitement for that next installment when it hit the newsstands. While Nila Reynolds' book is certainly a reflection of the era in which it was written and needs to be read as such, her work gives us an insight into the lives of early settlers, including women, to which we might not otherwise have access, and which other historians have been able to build on and draw from in the intervening decades.

Perhaps, as the autumn evenings draw in, you might feel in the mood to explore some local history in book form. The Haliburton County Public Library and our local bookstores are wonderful spots to pick up these sorts of reads if you don't already have them to hand. Within their pages, you'll find tales of women's history, such as the story Sarah Potts. Her husband worked for the Victoria Railway for many years, but Sarah travelled around the community in all conditions and all types of weather, sharing her skills as a midwife and ensuring that many babies who might not have otherwise survived would be able to thrive. At the same time, she was also, of course, providing comfort and reassurance to new mothers who might be far from their own families.

Another tale which might catch your eye is that of Annie Heard. Her husband, Alexander MacDonald was the second reeve of Dysart, but he passed away in 1891, leaving Annie with four children under the age of eleven. Annie was a skilled tailor however, having trained with companies in Port Hope and Peterborough. In an era before ready to wear clothing was widely available in shops, the skills of a tailor were in high demand, enabling Annie to provide for her family. Her two daughters, May and Nellie, trained as teachers, at the Model School in Minden, eventually taking teaching positions in Haliburton County.

Haliburton County's history is filled with stories of women's history that can speak to us across the decades, though they can often be hidden just below the surface. Let's share and celebrate as many of these as we can this Women's History Month!

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A world of adventure at HIFF

Those Other Movies is thrilled to announce this year's Haliburton International Film Festival (HIFF) Nov. 1 to 3, at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion.

After watching over 50 films at the Toronto's International Film Festival and Sudbury's Cinefest, the committee has juggled and debated to select the best lineup to bring to Haliburton County. Stories will travel across time and geography, genre and language, and ideas and experiences, bringing the world and a taste of its diversity to our community.

We have an exciting lineup of seven films with some additional special appearances. The line up is as follows:

Friday, Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. *The Count of Monte Cristo* (173'), France, subtitles, action/drama.

Saturday, Nov. 2, 10 a.m. *Flow* (84') Belgium/Latvia/France, animation/adventure/family. 1 p.m *Samia* (102'), Italy/Germany/Belgium, bio/drama with subtitles. 3:15 p.m. *Can I Get a Witness* (112'), Canada, Sci-fi/drama. 7:30 p.m. Special Guest: Kate Campbell - *Boundless* update and preview of new work. 8 p.m. Home Free (96'), Canada, drama with Special Guests Director/writer/producer Avi Federgreen and cast members.

Sunday, Nov. 3, 10 a.m. *All We Imagine as Light* (118'), France/India, drama with subtitles. 1:15 p.m. *Drive Back Home* (100'), Canada, bio-drama with subtitles

Reserve your pass and see more details about the full lineup at thoseothermovies.com

We recommend that you not watch the trailers. Trust that we've curated a great line up and buckle up for the journey.

Thanks to our generous, local sponsors, ticket prices continue to be affordable.

Weekend VIP passes are $65 ($60 for season's pass holders) and are available at thoseothermovies.com or cash at the door. Tickets for individual films are $10 at the door.

Volunteers from our local Lions Club will be at the festival with snacks, and yes, popcorn available. The Lakeview Motel, one of the sponsors for Those Other Movies is offering a "friends and family" rate for any festival goers!

Finally, mark your calendar for our documentary film festival day, Doc(k) Day on Saturday, April 5, 2025.

For more information, contact: Patti Lou Robinson 705-457-0428 or Tammy Rea at tammy.l.rea@gmail.com.

Submitted

Fundraiser put on hold

In response to the evolving landscape of dental care in Canada, Volunteer Dental Outreach for Haliburton County (VDO) is adjusting its services to better meet community needs in Haliburton County. With the federal government's continuing rollout of the Canada Dental Care Plan (CDCP), many low-income residents in Haliburton County will now have wide access to affordable dental care, resulting in a decreased patient load at VDO.

Therefore, as of Jan. 1, 2025, VDO will no longer provide dental care through the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program.

VDO will remain open to provide care to those county residents who do not qualify for the Canada Dental Care Plan but who meet the qualifications for dental care under VDO's original mandate:

Providing free dental care to low- income residents of Haliburton County who do not have dental insurance and who have nowhere else to turn.

In light of these changes, the 2025 Lisa Kerr Memorial Golf Tournament fundraising event has been suspended. The Board will assess future community needs before making further decisions.

The Board of Directors of VDO extends their gratitude to the loyal and generous community for its ongoing support.

You may forward any questions to the Board at vdohccharity@gmail.com.

Submitted

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Moments

DEBORAH REED
Special to *County Life*

I'M CELEBRATING! Because I span decades, my newly 'published' memoir now safely houses many of my long-hibernating memories. To forget something can cause me great frustration. I hurt even more for those who suffer with true memory loss. But now I can access a handy printed history of me.

Anytime.

Tending my lifetime collection of reminiscences will beget a welcome bonanza in later dotage. We don't all keep photos, and if we do, they likely won't include a sweet old storyteller who once understood each and every one of them.

Last year, my children gifted me with an official way to consolidate my past. They registered me with a company that emails weekly personalized questions. I devoted a year of Mondays to pondering these, and sent back my self-edited reflections. With giant mugs of coffee to jumpstart my winter brain, I probed its buried contents. Fifty-two chapters were born over time, illustrated with snapshots, artwork, poetry, articles - anything that might help represent my legacy if anyone chose to read this heavy book. Fifty-two questions, 52 expansive answers:

What was your Dad like when you were a child? (witty, gentle)

Which sports did you play in high school? (none …)

What was your favourite candy? (sponge toffee and black licorice)

How did you get to school? (barefoot, uphill both ways …)

The publishers generated the five fat hardcopies I requested, and printed my photos in colour. My order was delivered to the door. I'm now a starry-eyed 'author' who can't quite believe her own name is officially typed onto a book cover.

Authoring was a roller coaster. I got to play archaeologist with my own history, dramatizing both the hilarious and the tough bits. I got to wistfully revisit my milestones, my relationships, my formative choices and events. I got to be young all over again, and to re-experience losses, not to mention great learning. I noticed my idiosyncrasies, my deficits, and strengths. I got to feel organized, many tidy pages of my actual words collated between shining covers. Miracles were recouped for posterity.

I recommend memoirs. They're like telescopes. They 'flesh out' individuals, attach sparkle and dimension. Readers pay attention. We compare ourselves. We feel less isolated. Write one! Any format, any style. Your voice will have spoken. You might better understand yourself, and best of all, you'll stay tangible for those who'll miss you when you're gone.

Holding your written life in your hands feels like accomplishment. Like validation. And giving your story a title is a unique bonus. Icing on a cake of many birthdays. Wrapping paper on a gift of time. I named mine after a childhood talking game I invented for when nobody was listening. I was ashamed of it then because it seemed odd to hold audible two-sided debates with yourself when you're 6 years old. After describing it in my memoir, I no longer consider it a red flag of loneliness. It was curiosity and perspective.

Go ahead! Study yourself!

And dare to write about it…

Top 10 ways early conspiracy theorists explained falling leaves

Every time I hear a conspiracy theory, I take comfort in the fact that mankind has probably been making them up for thousands of years – probably regarding just about everything too.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

For instance, here are the top 10 ways conspiracy theorists might have explained falling leaves.

1. Part of a deep state conspiracy to sell us rakes.
2. Radical left shaking trees every night.
3. I know you can see it, but it's not actually happening.
4. God's way of letting you finally figure out where your cat went.
5. The Illuminati's way of undercutting the early toilet paper industry.
6. Deep state trying to make tree species harder to identify.
7. Nefarious plot masterminded by early ancestor of Bill Gates.
8. Trees trying to hide something.
9. A ruse meant to lull you into a false sense of security before the apples start dropping.
10. Distractions from the real problems – like witches and mermaids.

Companions

Pair of mallards wobbling along wavelets of Lake,
the male out-shimmering its mate, its emerald collar gleaming as afternoon Sun bathes the Lake,
glints of diamond light, sharp as Wind that slices through me, winking on its surface,
as I watch the pair, drifting towards the shore, side by side, the female's feathers, brown as earth or the bark of a tree,
easier for it to hide in plain sight when it reaches land.
I stand on the sand, strewn with feathers and stray leaves, Wind whirling all around me,
wondering where the mallards started their journey, leaving their raft of ducks behind, to explore the Lake,
bobbing on the waves, alone, together, the space between them, less than the length of a wing,
as Wind flings them onto the shore, stretching their land legs as they waddle onto the sand,
the female curling into a nest of her own feathers, to rest on the shore in a puddle of Sun,
the male, standing still, alongside her, gazing out at the hills fringing the Lake on the opposite side,
sunlight singeing the leaves on the trees, as I drink in the view, too,
and for a long while the mallard stands next to its mate,
Wind drying their feathers, rumpling the coziness of the female's nest,
the pair appearing content to just be there, alone, together, tethered to the stillness of their silence,
surrounded by Wind and water and Sky, only the two of them, there, on the sand,
as I stand at a distance, watching the pair, envying their ability to adapt from paddling in water to waddling along land,
the male, leaving its mate for a moment, to stroll along the shore, exploring the terrain,
passing pebbles and leaves and feathers, maybe some of them left by its flock,
pausing to sniff at something in the sand, scratching itself with its wing, as a seagull swoops down from Sky,
wobbling its way along the shore, towards where the female mallard rests, still curled in her twig-coloured nest,
the male turning back around, waddling quicker along the shore,
its silence broken by staccatos of quacks, as the seagull screeches back, scuttling towards the female, passing right by her,
before its wings carry it back up into Sky, the mallard returning to its mate,
whose feathers remain unruffled as she bathes in the Sun, her companion standing alongside her, silent, again,
as wavelets of Lake slurp the shore, and Wind whirls through Air, as I stand at a distance, watching the pair,
content to just be there, wondering how long they will stay, before I turn to wander away,
leaving them to be alone, together, tethered to one another like a feather to its wing,
before water and Wind carry them back to their flock, where they're lost in a flurry of feathers,
before finding each other again.

Sylvie Kalenda

DH3 brings Diwali, Festival of Lights to Haliburton

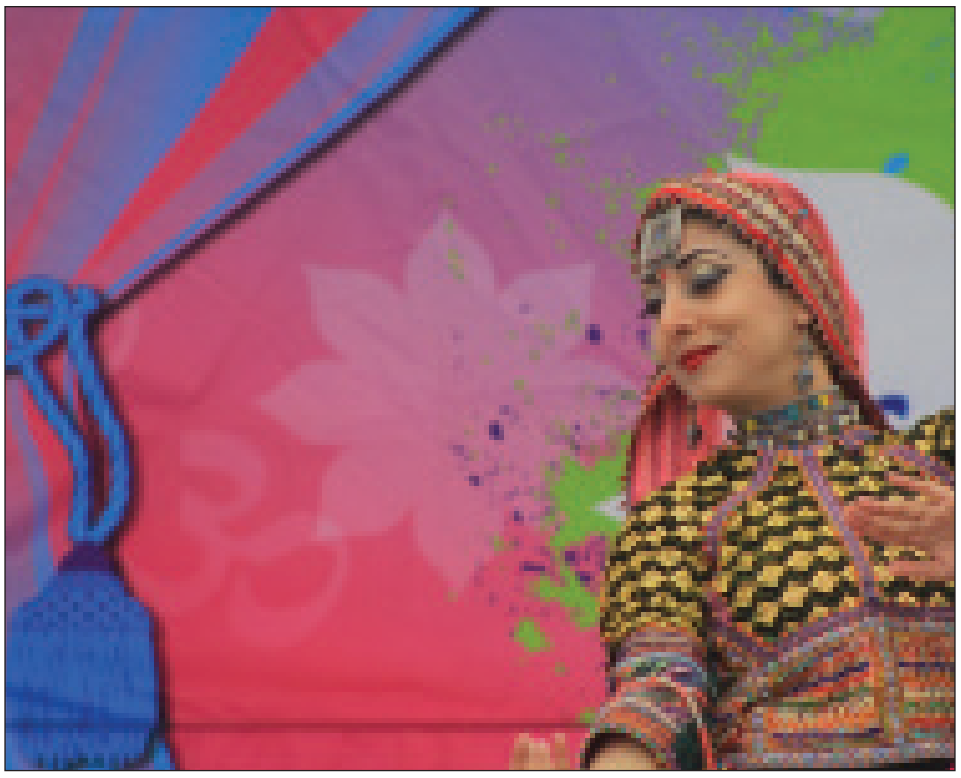
The universal theme of celebrating the light is found in the traditions of many cultures as we move towards the short days of winter. This fall, DH3 is honouring those traditions with a Diwali Festival of Lights on Saturday, Nov. 16 at the Haliburton Legion. Just as the days get to their shortest, we will be brightening up the night with an evening of dance, food, music and performances.

Doors open at 6 p.m. People attending will have an opportunity to learn some traditional Indian folk dances then try out your moves with a live band. This event is suitable for adults, youth and children.

DH3 has a tradition of hosting community dance events for all ages featuring music, dancing and food of various cultures. Salsa Night in Haliburton and Kolomejka for Ukraine. This fall we are very excited to feature a celebration of Indian culture.

We are delighted to welcome Paromita Kar who, together with another dance artist and a guitarist will teach and perform some traditional South Asian Rajasthani folk dance style and Bollywood dances. Paromita has a PhD in Dance Studies from York University and is a performer of the classical Indian Odissi dance, training under Odissi maestro Guru Durgacharan Ranbir of Odisha, India, as well as a performer of folk dances of Rajasthan (Thar desert region of Northwest India).

Music for everyone to dance will be provided by Karim Khimji with his live band of singers and musicians playing traditional instruments including table/dholak and dhol.



DH3 will be hosting Diwali Festival of Lights in Haliburton on Nov. 16. The event is suitable for all ages and everyone is welcome. /Submitted

Food will be provided by Masala Kraft from Lindsay for a true taste of India. Those attending will have a chance to sample a variety of Diwali celebration treats.

Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is a major Hindu festival held each fall fostering a sense of unity, love, and gratitude. It symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance through various cultural, religious, and social practices

It's a time for new beginnings, happiness, offerings of food and Indian sweets, dancing and bringing good luck into your life.

Harsha Manani, a DH3 committee member, and her uncle Jag, two of the co-owners of the Lakeview Motel are from Gujarata, a western state in India. For Gujarati's, Diwali is also the start of the new financial year for businesses, and rituals are conducted to worship Goddess Lakshmi and seek blessings for prosperity. Harsha says, "Diwali has deep religious significance in Hinduism, marking events such as Lord Rama's return to Ayodhya (Holy City) after defeating the demon king Ravana. (Good over Evil!) It is also dedicated to Goddess Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, and involves prayers for prosperity. It is believed that on the night of Diwali, Lakshmi roams the Earth and enters homes that are clean and brightly lit."

Tickets for the event are available on Eventbrite DiwaliHaliburton.eventbrite.ca or in person at Russell Red Records in Haliburton. $25 for adults, $15 for students 18 plus, free for children under 18. Get your ticket early to reserve your spot.

Dance Happens Here Haliburton is a part of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative

For more information have a look at the DH3 website dancehappenshere.com or contact Myra Stephen myrastephen52@gmail.com or Harsha Manani info@lakeviewhaliburton.ca

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Naturally Yours

The Golden Hike

RICK WHITTEKER

Special to *County Life*

Balsam Fir- The resin of the balsam fir has a fragrant scent to it. / Photo by Rick Whitteker

Where can you find a flat trail which is easy to access and surrounded by pristine habitats? The multiuse Haliburton County Rail Trail checks all the boxes. My preference is the section of trail between Geeza Road and Howland Junction Road. This is where the trail swings well away from County Road 1 and deep into the bush south of Gelert. A larger parking area just off Geeza Road is a great launching spot to access this beautiful section of trail.

Heading south towards Kinmount, the trail starts off like walking in a dark green tunnel- the trail edge is crowded with balsam fir growing thickly in this wet section. A tree viewed with mild disdain by the forestry industry, there is also much to like about this glamourless cousin of the towering Douglas Fir of the western North America.

To start, it has a sweet aroma which burst out just by rubbing its waxy needles between your thumb and index finger. For some, this rich resin smell represents the quintessential smell of nature. The balsam's thick sticky resin bubbles up, oozing white from nicks on the bark or stored in bulbous bark blisters. This thick, sugary resin makes a great fire starter and is useful as an antiseptic seal for cuts and wounds.

The shady start to the stroll changes to open meadows and wetlands dominated by willow, cattail and open sky. Fair weather cumulous and wispy streaks of upper cirrus clouds add to the colour palette of blue sky and colour changing maples and birches on this mid-October ramble.

The twisted strands of wolf or coyote scat line the trail edge reminding me that this travel corridor for ATVs, snowmobiles, horses, hikers and bikers, is also a wildlife corridor. On the northern edge of the Highlands Corridor, the Rail Trail provides a conduit of easy travel for highly mobile wildlife populations like canines and ungulates and travels through habitat for countless other species, especially birds. Bent grasses and shrubs to the side of the trail also indicate the presence of beavers. Indeed, this rail trail was built straight through wetlands and the beavers here are not willing to cede any more territory!

The golden part of this walk comes from the proliferation of tamaracks growing throughout the open meadows and wetlands. Thriving when their feet are wet, tamaracks are deciduous tree wannabes and unlike other cone bearing trees, they drop their needles every year. Before they do, their needles turn an impressive shade ranging from bright yellow to golden brown. Peaking in late October, tamaracks are tolerated in the sun loving wetland habitats as their willowy branches allow plenty of light to pass through to the plants below. Their needles are soft; they do not need to be tough and waxy like other conifers whose needles need to survive the rigors of winter.

About 3.5 kilometers from the Geeza Road parking, a lovely, circular wetland provides a rest stop, adorned with an impressive granite stone bench. This open pond is fringed with mostly spruce and white pine, a lone sugar maple glows red on the east shore. Colourful floating hummocks of sphagnum moss grace the open water near the elevated rail bed.

A good turn around point for some, I carried on to my destination of Howland Junction Road where I stashed a bike for the ride back to my car. On the second half of this hike, low lying areas give way to rocky sections with a drier upland forest. Massive white pines grow amongst the maples and lichen encrusted rock cuts frame the edge of trail.

A deep valley to the east seems to appear suddenly- there are no hints of this feature as the trail remains flat. Along this ridge, glimpses of the meandering Burnt River below can be caught through the trees.

Nearing my destination, a determined woolly bear caterpillar made its way steadily across the wide, gravel trail. Curling into its defensive posture when handled, the woolly bear is one of the most widely recognized caterpillars. Eventually morphing into the Isabella tiger moth, the woolly bear caterpillar is best known for is its winter weather folklore. According to legend, the wider the rusty brown centre section is on the woolly bear, the milder the upcoming winter.

There is not a lot of science behind this legend. The rusty brown band width varies and might be an indicator of age, specifically whether they emerged as caterpillars in the late spring or the fall. If you find a woolly bear that is all black, it is a different species and not a weather prediction of an apocalyptic winter!

The woolly bear caterpillar is known for its winter weather prediction folklore. /Photo by Ed Poropat

As a linear trail, either a shuttle needs to be arranged or you hike out and back. A great social trail, the Rail Trail allows side by side walking with little concern for tripping hazards. With a variety of habitats to enjoy, I particularly like this section of the trail, especially the different forest types, the open meadows and wetlands, the fall colours and golden glow of tamaracks- another wonderful fall hiking option in Haliburton County.

Not intended to solicit properties or clients currently listed

RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH
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11181 GULL RIVER $499,000

- A One minute boat ride across Gull River to 2.69 acres of supreme privacy
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- Pontoon & 16ft fishing boat, Starlink+ long list of inclusions
- 3 bedrooms
- All new plumbing & bathroom
- Too many improvements to list
- MLS# 40634640

Jackie Hardman
Sales Representative
705-879-8041
jackiedhardman@gmail.com

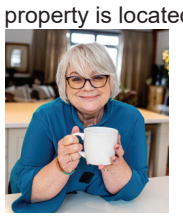
LOT 7 CON 5, MCLEAN $179,000

- Near Baysville
- 100 acres of pristine woodland
- Great for hunting/camping enthusiasts

Kirby Keks
Sales Representative
705-455-7899
homes@kirbykeks.com
www.kirbykeks.com

COUNTRY HOME W/PRIVACY $559,000

4.95 acres minutes from Gooderham. 1472 sq.f t. home(approx.) Great privacy. Main floor offers a large family room, living room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms & 4 piece bath. Full undeveloped basement. Propane furnace 2023, newer windows upstairs, central air, new flooring in kitchen, new light fixtures upstairs, recently painted, newer stove, drilled well. Attached workshop & outbuildings. The property is located close to Bear Lake.



Deb Lambe
Sales Representative
705-854-0103
debra.lambe@gmail.com

HOUSE IN MINDEN $359,000

- Level Lot and Parking for four cars
- Two Bedrooms up and Den Downstairs
- Two Living Spaces
- Walk Out Basement

Lynda Litwin
Sales Representative
705-457-8511
lynda@lyndalitwin.ca

GULL RIVER HOME $618,250

2+1 Bedrooms
1 Bathroom
4 Season home on Gull River
Large living room overlooking big, private backyard
Walkout basement
Only a couple minutes from Minden
Can boat into Minden or Gull Lake

Kelly Mercer
Broker
705-455-7500
kelly@kelly-mercer.ca

BOBCAYGEON ROAD $379,900

This delightful 2+1 bedroom, 1 bathroom home nestled on a spacious, flat lot. This property is perfect for first-time buyers or those looking for a cozy retreat! The main level features bright, inviting living area, well-sized eat-in kitchen. Full basement offers plenty of possibilities. The expansive backyard is perfect for playing, and gardening. Just minutes from Minden and all local amenities, parks, and schools.

Lisa Mercer
Broker
705-457-0364
www.lisamercer.ca
lisa@lisamercer.ca

95 BEAUTIFUL ACRES IN MINDEN

📍 1600 Bobcaygeon Road
🌲 Welcome to this stunning 95 acre Country property, offering the perfect blend of privacy, tranquility and convenience. Whether you're dreaming of building your forever home or seeking a peaceful retreat, this land is ready to make your dreams a reality.
💡 Hydro available at roadside on Bobcaygeon Rd.

Cheryl Smith
Sales Representative
705-455-2500
info@cherylsmithremax
cherylsmithremax.com

MINDEN HOME $549,900

- 3 bed
- 3 bath
- Over 2400 sq ft
- Minutes to the Village of Minden
- Primary bed with ensuite
- Updated kitchen
- Walkout basement
- A short distance to Mountain Lake!

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John Parish 705-457-5485
Jeff Strano 705-761-7629
Andrea Strano* 705-457-5984
Marj Parish 705-455-2211

HALIBURTON
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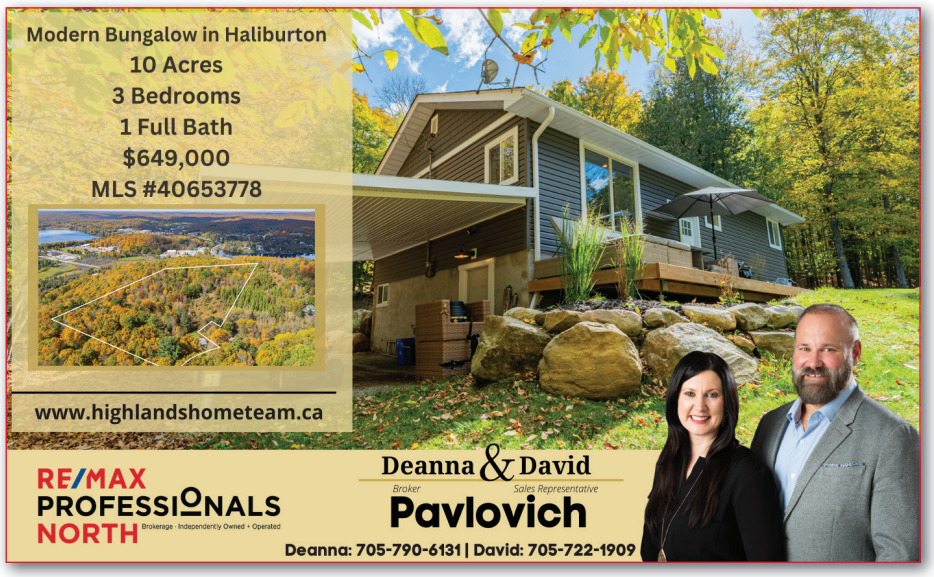

BOBCAYGEON ROAD $109,000

Beautiful building lot on the corner of Hwy#118 and Bobcaygeon Rd. 5.93 acres - 406 ft. on hwy - 787 ft on Bobcaygeon Rd. - picturesque pond - good building sites on east side of pond - property is off grid - close to 1000's of acres of crown land

Ted Vasey
Sales Representative
705-455-2034
ted@tedvasey.ca

COSY FARMHOUSE $749,900

* 3 Bedrooms, 1 Bathroom, Custom Kitchen and Plenty of Natural Light
* Beautiful 100-Acre Property Nestled with Mixed Bush, Trails, Pond, Apple Orchard and Established Apiary
* Numerous Upgrades Offers Blend of Natural Beauty, Modern Amenities and Country Charm!
* Close to Haliburton Village and All Amenities

Ken Barry
Broker 705-754-5280
Jacquie Barry
Realtor® 705-457-0652
www. kenbarry.com
Out Standing In Our Field

TWELVE MILE LAKE $459,000

A lovely waterfront property with a stunning beach! There is an existing 3 bdrm cottage which may be used as-is, or start fresh & build your dream cottage. A level lot, sand shoreline, & easy access from a main road. Located on Twelve Mile, & connected to two more lakes, this property offers excellent boating & water sports. Only 7 minutes from the town of Minden.

Terry Carr & Drew Staniforth
Sales Representatives
705-935-1011
MovingTheHighlands.com

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DUCHENE
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1057 Suburban Court
WEST GUILFORD
$849,900

WILBERFORCE $249,900

- 6 acs; perfect for country retreat
- Sellers have done many upgrades
- Building site cleared & ready to go
- Hydro in & drilled well installed
- Driveway & septic system are in
- Lvl lot around site; mixed terrain
- Nature abounds on well treed lot
- Private setting yet close to town
- Year round access at Cedar Lk Rd

Rick Forget
Broker
705-457-0580
haliburtonhighlands-remax.ca

County helps Aging Together as Community

The County of Haliburton is pleased to be named a recipient of the 2024-2025 Seniors Community Grant to support Aging Together as Community's [ATAC] new project, Bridging the Gaps.

"I am greatly appreciative for this funding from the Ontario Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility to help support programming for seniors in Haliburton County," said Liz Danielsen, Warden, County of Haliburton. "This partnership between the Province, the County, and Aging Together as Community positively benefits the senior population and County as a whole."

The Bridging the Gaps project will provide social, health, fitness, educational and digital literacy programming to help rural, low-income and 2SLGBTQIA+ seniors stay active, connected and living independently throughout Haliburton County. The project was awarded $25,000 through the Seniors Community Grant Program.

"This funding is perfect timing for ATAC," said Paul Moore, ATAC Steering Committee member. "Our programme not only fits with the priorities of the Seniors Community Grant Program of reducing isolation, being connected, accessing services and programs and increasing supports for health prevention and health promotion, but also, is extremely timely overlapping with some of the outcomes and directives from our recent community survey."

The provincial funding will enable ATAC to continue its goal of bringing more seniors throughout Haliburton County together in inclusive meetings both virtually and in-person. Meetings will also provide an opportunity for participants to hear from speakers on a variety of educational topics such as Navigating the Health Care System and Understanding Digital Technology, while sharing a healthy meal and having time to socialize and make friends.

"The renewed support for Aging Together as a Community is welcome news for Haliburton County," said Laurie Scott, Member of Provincial Parliament for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock. "Our government is continuing their commitment to helping seniors stay active and healthy in our community and across our province."

Haliburton County has a rural population of more than 20,000 residents, with over 35 per cent of residents being 65 or older.

Submitted

Bird's eye view

Visitors flocked to Sir Sam's Ski and Ride to check out the highly anticipated lookout tower on the property during their annual Fall Open House. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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Kawartha Haliburton Children's Aid Society
Safe Kids. Strong Families. Thriving Communities.

Dress Purple to show families that help is available, no one is alone

The Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society (KHCAS) is proud to join other children's aid societies and Indigenous Child and Family Well-Being agencies across the province, in partnership with government and community-based organizations for the Dress Purple Day campaign. The campaign raises awareness about the important role individuals play in supporting children, youth and families facing challenges. This year, Dress Purple Day takes place on Friday, Oct. 25.

On Dress Purple Day, KHCAS invites the community to wear purple to show their commitment to child welfare and spread the message that help is available to the children and youth in our communities. Wearing purple stresses the importance of community support in ensuring the safety and well-being of children and youth in our communities

Dress Purple Day offers an opportunity to raise awareness of the important role we all play in supporting vulnerable children, youth and families and that the Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society works together with many community organizations to help children, youth, and families facing challenges." says Jennifer McLauchlan, Executive Director of the Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society. "We are wearing purple today to show children, youth, and families that we care and are here to help."

The goals of Dress Purple Day for the KHCAS are:

- To highlight how the KHCAS works in partnership with local community-based organizations and service providers to support vulnerable children, youth and families
- To continue to work collectively with the Ontario government regarding the need to invest in social infrastructure so children, youth and families can access the right care, at the right time, close to home
- To raise awareness that every child and youth has a right to safety and well-being in all spaces and that the community plays a role in protecting those rights
- For KHCAS to strengthen relationships with local community-based organizations and service providers supporting children, youth and families

Join us Oct. 25 and Dress Purple to send a clear message to Ontario – strong, healthy communities matter. Use the hashtag #IDressPurpleBecause to share your support and help spread awareness (e.g., Instagram, Facebook and X).

For more information about Dress Purple Day and how you can get involved, please visit oacas.org/DressPurpleDay.

Submitted

Sunflowers

Sunflower, drooping its head towards the earth,
its yellow petals curling into themselves, like claws, as if to shield its face from the crows, shredding Air with their caws,
one of them swooping down to peck at the sunflower's face,
to scoop out seeds with its beak, as I watch from across the street,
weeds springing from the ground, mingling with leaves, that have fluttered from their trees,
October Air laced with the smell of earth and rotting leaves, as clumps of clouds swell above me, their bellies bruising Sky,
as the crows circle the cluster of sunflowers, wilting on a patch of grass in somebody's front yard,
their heads bowed towards the ground, that once raised their faces up towards Sun, feeling its warmth, drinking its light,
now they wilt beneath a steel Sky, the season of withering, begun,
as I peer down at the puddles of leaves pooling around my feet,
their faces shriveling as Wind sweeps some of them across the street, towards the sunflowers,
one of them towering over the rest, the one where the crow's finished gauging out bits of its face,
and flaps back up into Air, to join the other crows, screeching in the branches of balding trees,
the sunflowers' heads, dangling on gangly stalks, stretching taller than me,
as I scurry across the road, along with the leaves, Wind carrying them farther from their trees,
my eyes staring into the faces of the sunflowers, my favourite flower when I was small and the world was so tall,
and I raised my face up towards the Sun like they did, to see what they saw,
standing in the backyard, amongst the giant flowers, that I felt somehow protected me
from the concrete world that loomed beyond our leafy street,
and when their petals wilted, come fall, a piece of me wilted too, bending my head like the sunflowers,
to peer down at the ground on my way to school, instead of up at Sky, feeling shy when I met the teacher's hovering eyes,
the memory slithering through me like the shiver of Wind shimmying up my sweatered spine,
as I pause at the patch of sunflowers, springing from a stranger's front yard,
fingering the silky petals of the tallest one, curled like claws,
grazing the roughness of its face that's been pecked by a crow, bowing my head to see what it sees,
a puddle of russet and brown leaves, shriveling on the grass, blown here by Wind as it barrels through the trees,
the smudge of Sun seeping through the clouds before it disappears again,
my fingers ruffling the tallest sunflower, So Long, a yellow petal loosening, as I clutch it in my palm,
then resume meandering along the road, cupping my face up towards the invisible Sun,
the season of withering, barely begun.

Sylvie Kalenda

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Learn the ropes: A road map to healthcare services
Where: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129, 719 Mountain Street, Haliburton
When: Sunday, Oct. 27, 3 to 6 p.m.
Register by Monday, Oct. 21, 2024 by email at atachhevents@gmail.com or call Connie Wood 705-457-7215.
Afterwards, enjoy a casual meal of beef brisket or vegetable chili, buns and pumpkin tart. Keynote speakers: Jen Burns-West Chief Nursing Executive and VP Clinical and Community Support Services, Haliburton Highlands Health Services Christine Keenan , Project Coordinator, Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Ontario Health Team, Lauren Wilson, Pharmacist/Owner, Pharmasave Chris Parish, Commander Clinical Programs, Haliburton County, Paramedic Service
Kim Ballantyne, Senior Manager, Patient Services, Home andCommunity Care Support Services.

Recurring events

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly
When: Monday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level
Admission: Yearly membership of $59
A non-profit/commercial network of weight-loss support groups, offers programs for healthy living and weight management.

Seniors Chair Exercises
When: Thursdays at 1 p.m.
(Beginning Oct. 17)
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain Street
Please join us for safe and gentle exercises for seniors to help with balance, strength and flexibility. Free to join.

Cards/Euchre/Cribbage
When: Thursdays at 2:30 p.m.
Where: St. George's Church
617 Mountain Street
Lakeside Church Service
When: Sunday at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Where: 9 Park Street, Haliburton.
Whoever you are, wherever you've been, you are welcome here.

Weekly Meat Rolls
When: Every Saturday, 3 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Legion, Hwy 48 and 35
Join us for our weekly meat draw at the Coboconk Legion. Five spins for $10. The first four rounds are for highest and lowest score with two winners per round. The last round is for a prepare-it-yourself dinner for two. Additional spins for this round are available for $2 each. Call 705-454-8127 or email info@coboconklegion.ca for more information.

Scottish Country Dancing
When: Mon. Sept. 16 from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m.
Where: Fellowship Room of Haliburton United Church (10 George St.,)
Beginners absolutely welcome!
No experience or partner needed!
Please wear clothing you can move freely in and indoor (preferably soft-soled) shoes. Classes are $10 cash/class or register for the whole term for $110 (cash or e-transfer). Email haliburtonscottishcountrydance@gmail.com for more info or to register.

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Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Eastern wood pewee /Derek Spencer

Submitted by Tammy Nash

Submitted by Jill Moulton

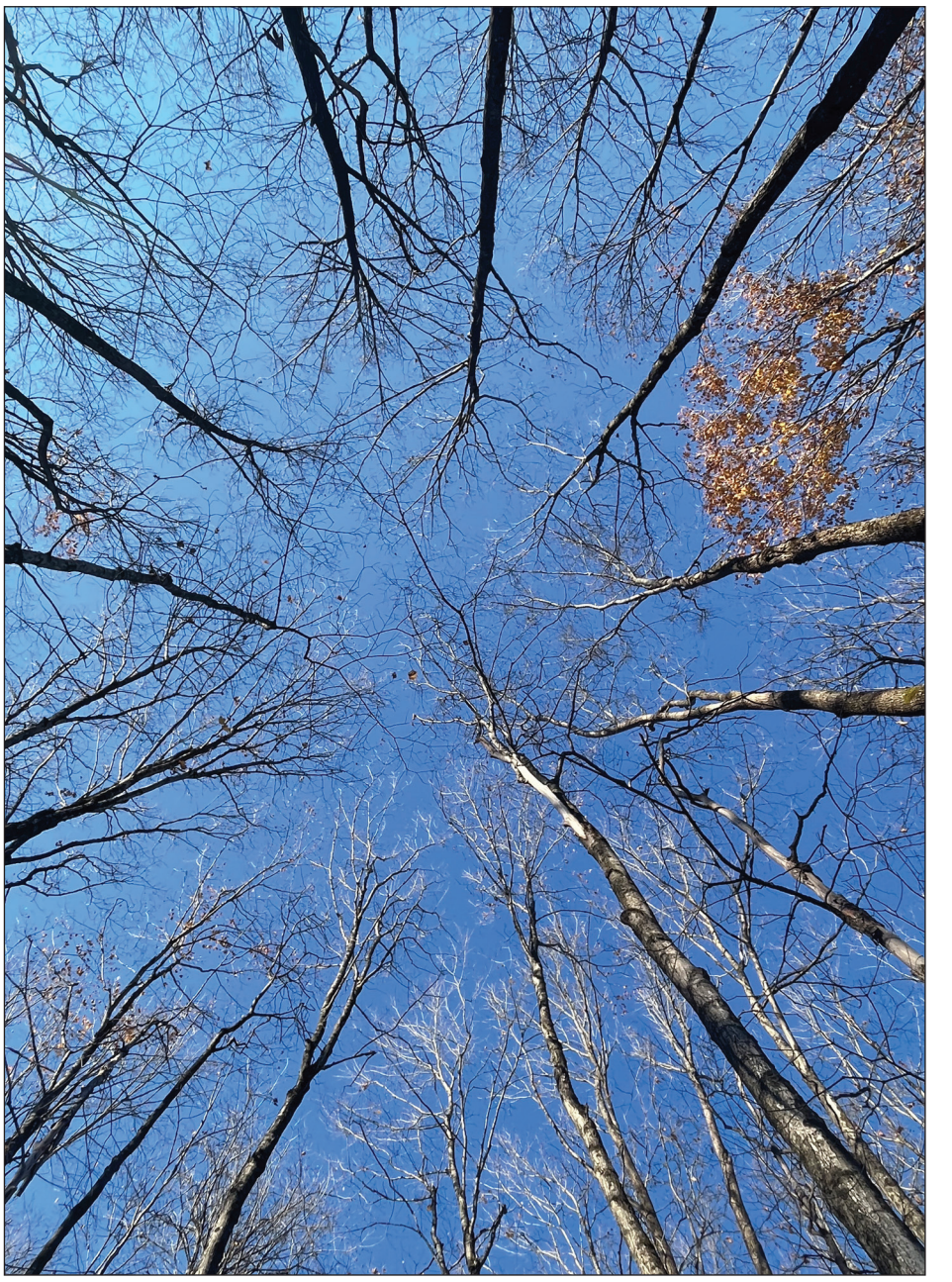
Submitted by Lavdeep Jallandhra

Submitted by Tammy Nash

/Laura Smith Staff

Submitted by Jill Moulton

Yellow-bellied sapsucker. /Derek Spencer



Submitted by Lavdeep Jallandhra

Protect yourself and your community

Medical Officer of Health encourages community to reduce the risk by utilizing public health precautions.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit is reminding everyone to stay safe this upcoming respiratory illness season by staying up to date on vaccinations. It is recommended that everyone get their flu, COVID-19 and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) shots (if applicable) as soon as they become available.

In early October, flu shots will be available for the most vulnerable and high priority populations, including those hospitalized, health care workers, and residents in long-term care and retirement homes, other congregate settings, and individuals 65 years of age and older. Free flu shots for the public aged six months and older will be available starting on Oct. 28, through participating pharmacies and primary care teams.

Beginning in October, families with infants born in 2024 and high-risk children up to 24 months old will now have access to the publicly funded new RSV immunization. Access to the RSV immunization can be made through their health care provider. Newborns born during the 2024/25 respiratory season, while at hospitals, will also be offered the vaccine. The RSV prevention program has also expanded this fall to include all retirement home residents. For more details on the RSV program, visit Ontario.ca/rsv.

"Let's all continue to protect ourselves and our community by staying up to date on our vaccinations, which include influenza, COVID-19 and RSV," said Dr. Natalie Bocking, Medical Officer of Health and CEO for the HKPR District Health Unit. "Both COVID-19 and flu vaccines are available at local pharmacies and primary care teams. By doing so, we are ensuring our critical health care services are there for those who need them most." The Health Unit will be providing the COVID-19, flu and RSV vaccine to eligible children six months to five years of age only starting in November. To book an appointment call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577 ext. 1507.

How to reduce risk of transmission this holiday season

Stay up to date with your immunizations: COVID-19, flu, and RSV if you are eligible.

Skip the holiday party if you're not feeling well, stay home when you are sick.

Consider wearing a mask in crowded indoor spaces, and when recovering from illness. If you are recovering from illness, wear a mask for ten days after your symptoms started

Wash your hands often, and clean high touch surfaces frequently. If you host or attend a holiday gathering, clean high touch surfaces, and encourage guests to wash their hands frequently or use hand sanitizer

Protect our health care services. Doing what you can to limit the spread of illness will help ensure our health care workers are available for those who need them most

Furthermore, Ontario offers convenient access to antiviral treatments such as Paxlovid through physicians, nurse practitioners, and pharmacists, with virtual care options available through Health811.

View the HKPR District Health Unit's Respiratory Infections Dashboard.

Submitted

Gifts from the Heart campaign

We invite you to be a part of something truly special! Our Annual Fundraising Campaign, "Gifts from the Heart," is essential for sustaining our Community Kitchen Program, which provides nourishing meals to those in need in our community.

Why is this important?

Our Community Kitchen Program serves our seniors and families facing food insecurity, offering them the dignity of a good meal. Last year, thanks to the incredible generosity of people like you, we prepared 16,800 free, nutritious meals! But we need your help to continue this vital work.

Here's the truth: We receive no government funding for this program. Its success relies solely on the donations from our compassionate community members. Your contribution can make a significant impact!

How can you help?

Donate: Every dollar counts! Your donation helps us continue this vital program.

Spread the word: Share this campaign with your friends and family. Together, we can reach more hearts and hands.

Go to sirch.on.ca/donate to learn more about the "Gifts from the Heart" campaign and how you can get involved. Together, we can ensure that no one in our community goes hungry.

Thank you for your support!

If you're looking for more information, call SIRCH at 705-457-1742 or visit www.sirch.on.ca.

Submitted

Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Social Cornhole 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday: Canteen opens at 6 p.m. with open darts to start at 7:30 p.m.
Thursday: General meeting (members) at 7:30 p.m. 3rd Thursday every month
Friday: Backyard BBQ 5 to 7 p.m.
Bingo: doors 0pen at 5:30 p.m. play starts at 6:45 p.m. $300 jackpot with a progressive $500 jackpot
Saturday: Canteen opens at 3 p.m. with meat draw to start at 5 p.m.
Sunday: Ladies Auxiliary meeting (members only) 3rd Sunday every month at 2 p.m.
Hall available to rent for any occasion, call 705-488-3462. Everyone is welcome to any events, to join our meetings then become a member. Follow our Facebook page – Royal Canadian Legion Branch 441 Kinmount. We are always posting new events. For all you ladies, join our Ladies Auxiliary, we are always looking for new faces. If you are interested, phone 705-928-7105!

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge every Monday, 1 p.m. Schofield Rm.
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. First Wed of each month - $1000 jackpot, rest will be a $500 jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Meat draw has five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC.
Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards.
Saturdays: 50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw – tickets are $1 each available in the Clubroom.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129 ... everyone is welcome!
Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m. and Sat. 3 to 6 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Schedules are subject to change without notice.
Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Closed Sunday and Tuesday
Monday: Darts 7 p.m. Open 6 to 10 p.m.
Wednesday: 2 to 6 p.m. Darts 2 p.m.
Thursday: Open 2 to 10 p.m. Horseshoes 7 p.m.
Saturday Meat draw Legion open 2 to 11 p.m.
For all your catering needs call the Ladies auxiliary at 705-448-2221

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St. Michaels
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Book Launch "Miracle on Worchester Avenue" by PJ (Phyllis) Sisson. Saturday, October 26, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Stanhope Fire Hall, Northshore Road, Algonquin Highlands Help Phyllis celebrate her 80th birthday and 30th Anniversary of the Miracle. All are welcome. "Best Wishes Only Please"

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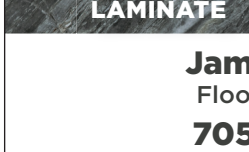

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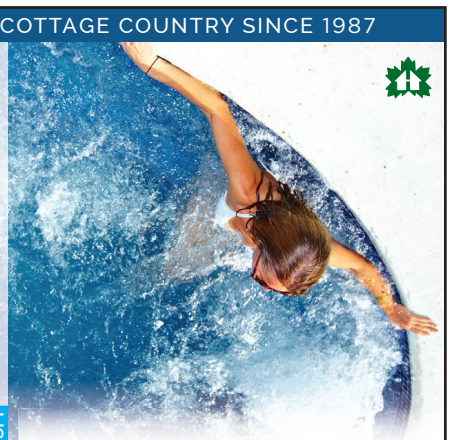

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THIS WEEK

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Sid Cooper, Robert Heinze unveil their platforms

See page 3 and page 14

SPORTS

REDMEN ARE HOT!

High school football teams are undefeated and getting stronger... see page 8

FEATURE

Animal Kingdom

New children's book writen by a local author

See our Second Section Front Page

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1994

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY

ECHO

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Firemen's speedy response has homeowners grateful

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

It was one of those times when seeing is believing.

Kim Cowen had read stories about how quickly the Dysart Fire Department responds to a call, but it wasn't until she was watching her own home go up in flames that she realized just how quickly that was.

On September 30 at 2:52 in the morning, a passerby noticed the fire at the County Road 1 home just west of Haliburton village and called the fire department. Cowen and her husband Murray own the old homestead, but it was rented to a young man who was not at home that night. The Cowens live in another house next door.

Within six minutes, there were 23 volunteer firemen on the scene.

"As much as I'm feeling sick to watch my house go up in smoke, I'm standing there in awe," Cowen says of her reaction as she watched the men try to keep the fire under control. "To hop out of bed and fly down to our place, that was really incredible. Their wives must be really understanding."

Not only were so many men there in record time, but they lost no time in determining what

Please turn to page 14

Glamorgan election signs stolen just days after campaigning begins

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

The Minden OPP have been asked to investigate the theft and defacement of more than 70 election signs in Glamorgan.

Councillor Lorrie Saville, who's running for reeve, says the vandalism began shortly after the signs were erected on Wednesday. Some signs were even stolen as the all-candidates debate was held at the community centre on Saturday.

Both she and Councillor Bill Challis, who's running for deputy-reeve, have had 30 signs stolen. Eleven of reeve candidate Elva Bates' signs have been stolen. Red spray paint has been used to deface some of Saville's and Bates' signs.

"We couldn't believe the number of signs that were taken," Saville says. "It's ridiculous."

It is a criminal offence to steal or deface election signs. Rumours are already circulating about who is responsible for the vandalism, she says, but no charges have been laid yet.

Candidates and public argue over expansion

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

The expansion of the Glamorgan Community Centre turned out to be the hottest issue at Glamorgan's all-candidates meeting on Saturday afternoon.

But just as there was disagreement among the candidates about whether the costs are justified, there was also disagreement among the 50 people who attended the public meeting at the community centre.

Two people asked whether it's fair for council to spend the majority of its infrastructure money to add onto a building that is used by only 10% of the population. They felt that more money should have been spent on roads, which are used by everyone.

However, a group of residents asked whether it was ethical for council to have taken money which had been raised by volunteers for community centre improvements and spent it on roads.

Under the infrastructure program, the federal, provincial and municipal government chip in one-third of the costs each. To come up with Glamorgan's share of the $127,000 which will be spent on the community centre and $75,000 which was spent on resurfacing three roads, council took money out of a reserve fund. The reserve fund was profits from several fundraising events held over the years for community centre improvements, such as a new kitchen and floor.

> *"We only had your best interests at heart. It will save taxpayers' money. Is that not the ultimate goal?"*
> **Bev MacDuff**

The issue was first raised by Joan McCausland, who wasn't pleased with the answer from Reeve Bev MacDuff so she asked it again in a different way. Two other questioners phrased the same question in slightly different ways. Eventually, the question boiled down to whether candidates would take money out a fund earmarked for one project and spend it on another project.

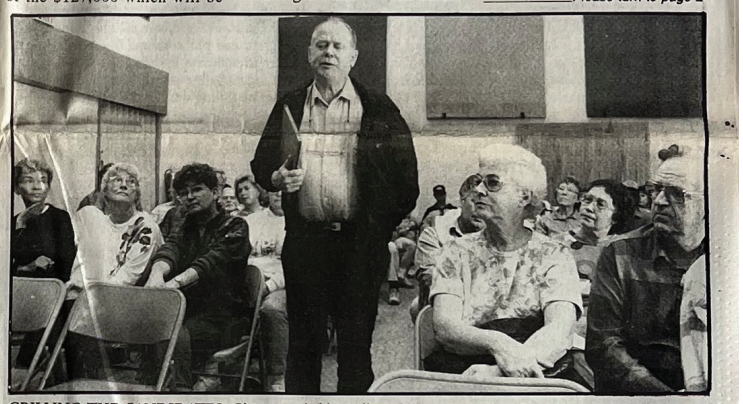
MacDuff, who wants to retain her position as reeve, said if Glamorgan wanted to take advantage of the program to improve roads, taxes would have increased 12.5%. If the roads weren't resurfaced, maintenance costs would increase. It was to taxpayers' advantage to take the municipality's share out of reserves, leaving enough money for the community centre to add on a new kitchen, buy a new dishwasher, install a heating system that will save $2,500 in heating bills a year, install a water filtering system and increase storage space. Because of cost restraints, council was not able to increase the size of the hall or resurface the floor, which "is not a priority."

Later, she also said that reserve funds had also been used for the firehall addition and to pay for the new emergency rescue truck. She added that she is one of the volunteers who has helped raise the money and believes the centre plays an important role in providing organizations a place to hold events for youths. Seniors also use the centre regularly.

"We only had your best interests at heart," she said. "It will save taxpayers' money. Is that not the ultimate goal?

Bill Challis, a councillor who is

Please turn to page 2



GRILLING THE CANDIDATES: Glamorgan held an all-candidates meeting on Saturday morning at the community centre and ratepayers, above, took advantage of the opportunity to find out what the candidates thought about several issues. People have until Friday at 5 p.m. to declare their intention to run for municipal office.

It's a tasty job, but someone's got to do it

Pie judge speaks of "sacrifices"

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

AFTER NIBBLING on 25 home-made pies and trying to judge which one of them was the most delicious, Bob Heyes stood in the hallway of the Haliburton Highlands Museum's Reid House and spoke of the "sacrifices" one must be prepared to make on a sunny Saturday afternoon.

Granted, many people would say that the pies that graced the antique tables were worth dying for, but there was little sympathy for Haliburton doctor and his two compatriots. For at least an hour, Dr. Heyes, dietitian Rosie Kadwell and rhubarb queen Ruth Still had the onerous task of tasting a sliver of each of the 25 pies submitted in the Museum's annual Harvest Pie Contest and then judging which ones they liked the best. The only sacrifice they made was fighting their desire to have a second piece, and then a third and maybe even a fourth.

The true sacrifices were made by the pies' bakers, who donated their creations to the auction, much against their families' protestations no doubt. Without these unselfish pie makers, Haliburton would have been a much skinnier place today.

The pies themselves were works of art. The judges swooned over a pumpkin-cheese pie which was decorated with fancy swirls and called it "a Rembrandt." Their bones melted when they bit into a chocolate confection. They snuck surreptitious glances at each other to see if the others would notice if a pie mysteriously disappeared (only to re-appear at the judge's dinner table that night.) Not one of them mentioned cholesterol as they talked about the finer merits of a flaky pie crust. Ah yes, the sacrifices that are made in the interests of Haliburton-kind...

As the expression on Bob Heyes' face shows, the judges in the Harvest Pie Contest had an incredibly difficult task on Saturday afternoon. Twenty-five homemade pies were donated to the Haliburton Highlands Museum and Ruth Still, Dr. Heyes and Rosie Kadwell had to sacrifice a few hours of their Thanksgiving weekend to decide which ones were the best. The pies were later auctioned to a hungry crowd.

In the end, they also had the difficult task of choosing the "Judges' Choice." Museum director Tom Ballantine changed the title from Best Pie to Judges' Choice to allow the judges to give merit to the pie that struck their fancy as well as their tastebuds. This year the prize went to Anita Kuno for her beautifully composed open face pear pie with a hint of ginger and an indescribable crust.

When it came time for the winning pies to be auctioned off, the crowd at the museum could hardly contain itself. Visions of pumpkin pies danced in their heads on this Thanksgiving weekend. Auctioneer Robert Heinze had a hard time keeping up with the flurry of bids from the sugar-starved patrons of this annual public event. "The pies just disappeared," says Ballantine, who had hoped there would be leftovers. After all the excitement and anticipation, it would be interesting to find out if the pies ever made it to Sunday night's Thanksgiving table. Chances are they were only a sweet memory by that time.

Here is a list of the winning pies, with last year's winner Lynn Tashlin once again proving that she has that magic touch...

Apple (1st to 3rd): Lynn Tashlin; Claire Sylvan; and Karen Loukras

Fruit: Lynn Tashlin; Doris Laine and Wendy Wells with a tie for second; and Anne Creelman and Beulah Tyler with a tie for third

Filled: Beulah Tyler; Lynn Tashlin; and Kathleen Costello

Pumpkin: Donna Clarke and Lynn Tashlin tied for first; Leonard Wheeler; and Beulah Tyler.

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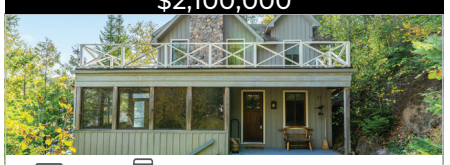

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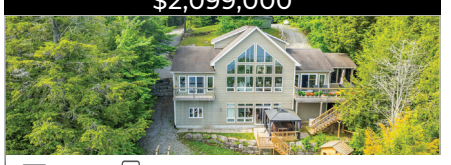

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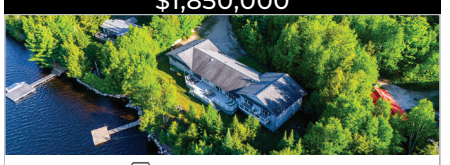

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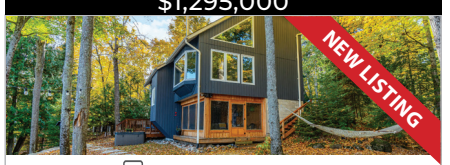

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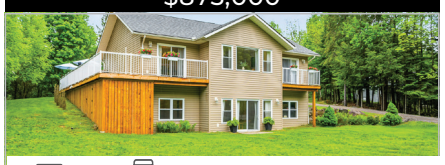

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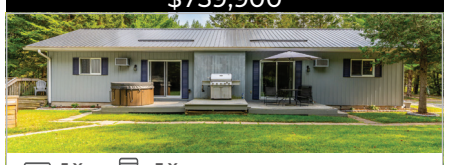

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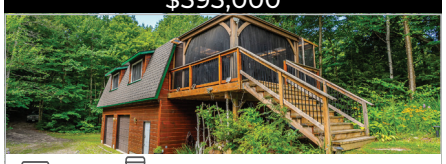

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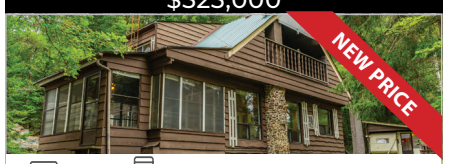

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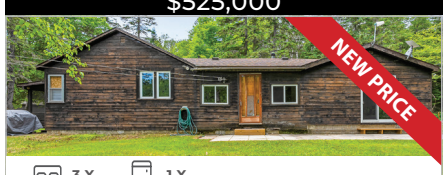

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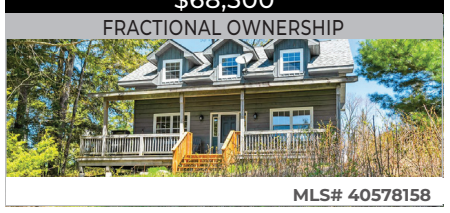

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